

LIVESTOCK ON FARMS JANUARY 1				
YEAR	All Cattle (including milk cows)	Milk Cows (2 years and older) 1/	Hogs and Pigs 2/	Stock Sheep and Lambs
1935	16,922	NA	6,738	9,929
1940	16,874	NA	5,720	8,854
1945	19,840	NA	5,445	8,863
1950	26,628	6,739	8,517	16,808
1954	27,970	5,637	7,097	9,620
1959	27,177	3,982	8,008	11,613
1964	23,320	2,347	3,238	6,079
1969	28,846	1,626	3,212	7,380
1974	37,229	1,836	1,662	4,935
1978	31,754	1,610	1,464	5,816
1982	39,782	1,672	958	5,367
1987	35,381	1,447	697	3,959
1992	36,946	1,517	341	2,306
1997	37,562	1,625	244	1,185

1/ "Milk cows that have calved" beginning in 1970. 2/ Beginning in 1970 hog inventory data refers to preceding December. NA Not available.

FARM INCOME AND SALES			
	1997	1992	1987
Number of farms:	631	643	682
Farm income and sales:			
	-Thousand Dollars-		
Crops Sold	1,493	1,536	785
Grains	254	274	70
Tobacco	----	----	----
Field seeds, hay, forage, and silage	295	394	248
Other field crops	----	(D)	----
Vegetables, sweet corn and melons	(D)	(D)	(D)
Fruits, nuts and berries	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nursery and greenhouse products	861	(D)	(D)
Forest Products Sold	305	129	139
Livestock, Poultry and Products Sold	12,470	11,198	9,433
Poultry and products	1,561	(D)	13
Dairy products	3,931	3,549	(D)
Cattle and calves	6,687	6,936	6,572
Hogs and pigs	22	(D)	112
Sheep, lambs and wool	49	64	151
Other livestock and products	221	131	(D)
Total income from sales:	13,963	12,734	10,218
Custom work and other agricultural services:	68	265	242

(D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.
---- Represents zero.

NUMBER OF FARMS, BY SIZE, GROUP								
YEAR	Size of Farm (Acres)							All Farms
	1-9	10-49	50-179	180-499	500-999	1,000-1,999	2,000+	
			50-174 1/	175-499 1/		1,000-Over 1/		
1974	24	81	304	236	49	15	3	712
1978	23	72	292	204	62	10	4	667
1982	23	116	294	204	54	16	4	711
1987	27	123	279	188	51	9	5	682
1992	33	112	259	172	51	13	3	643
1997	26	126	237	186	40	16	----	631

1/ Applies to 1997. ---- Represents zero.

OPERATORS' OCCUPATION AND AGE				
	1982	1987	1992	1997

Operators by principal occupation:

Farming	288	298	307	263
Other	423	384	336	368

Operators by age group:

Under 25 years	3	3	5	4
25 to 34 years	69	39	33	23
35 to 44 years	100	104	95	87
45 to 54 years	183	135	109	151
55 to 64 years	NA	212	199	150
65 years and over	NA	189	202	216
Average Age	54	56	57	58

NA Not available.

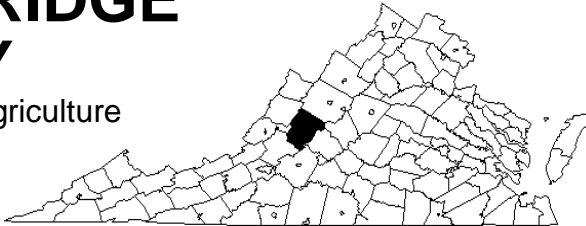


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ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY

U.S. Census of Agriculture



Rockbridge County is situated in the central part of the Great Valley of Virginia. Bordered by the Blue Ridge Mountains on the east and the Allegheny Mountains on the west, the county derives its name from the natural rock bridge over Cedar Creek. The county was formed in 1778 from parts of Augusta and Botetourt.

In 1997, there were 140,110 acres in farms in Rockbridge, occupying 37 percent of the county's area of 383,789 acres. According to the **1997 Census of Agriculture**, there were 631 farms in the county, each averaging 222 acres in size and worth an average of \$394,159, including land and buildings.

A broad valley extends southwestward through the center of the county, and elevations in Rockbridge range from 1,000 feet in the valley to 4,000 feet at higher mountain points. Temperatures for the area average 36 degrees in January and 75 in July, while annual precipitation averages 38 inches. Rockbridge has a frost-free growing season of roughly 168 days, usually extending between April 26 and October 11.

In recent years, many diversified light industries have developed in the county, shifting the economic focus away from agriculture. However, agriculture nonetheless contributes to a good balance of economic activity and employment in the area. Rockbridge continues to be an important livestock county, and in 1997, approximately 89 percent of the county's total farm income came from livestock, poultry, and poultry products. Income from cattle and calves supplied 48 percent of this total, and dairy products accounted for another 28 percent. Income from crops accounted for 11 percent of the total farm income in 1997. As almost two-thirds of the county is wooded, lumbering and related industries provide another important source of employment and income.

The estimated population of the county in 1990 was 18,350. The total gross income that year was \$269.4 million, or an average of \$14,685 per capita.

Lexington is the county seat as well as the site of both The Virginia Military Institute and Washington and Lee University.

FARM DATA & LAND USE

YEAR	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Avg. Value Per Acre For Land & Buildings	LAND USE					
				Cropland			Other Pasture ^{1/}	Woodland	
				Harvested	Other	Pasture		Pasture	Not Pastured
	Number	Acres	Dollars	-Acres-					
1935	2,337	263,242	31	60,464	5,422	61,749	27,817	NA	95,794
1940	2,125	248,788	39	54,269	9,315	70,004	NA	NA	NA
1945	1,999	254,155	44	51,587	3,562	17,391	91,955	33,559	49,248
1950	1,751	239,705	68	38,850	7,055	29,114	77,999	36,066	44,006
1954	1,498	223,182	79	37,891	3,621	14,929	77,387	41,697	41,795
1959	1,128	207,667	100	29,687	5,085	22,545	66,069	33,193	45,474
1964	936	188,355	124	24,974	3,560	22,289	38,299	NA	NA
1969	780	176,862	203	22,251	3,972	37,680	32,642	17,886	28,924
1974 ^{2/}	712	168,224	384	22,392	1,442	42,161	35,642	NA	NA
1978	667	159,321	721	25,561	1,971	40,978	34,435	20,601	28,976
1982	711	158,186	788	25,465	2,136	33,809	38,390	18,053	33,566
1987	682	146,455	938	27,048	1,152	35,561	37,099	18,984	23,249
1992	643	141,766	1,447	25,887	3,155	32,253	35,484	14,622	26,965
1997	631	140,110	1,911	29,251	1,444	32,972	33,053	16,203	24,146

1/ Due to changes in definition and wording of questions, figures for "cropland pasture" and "other pasture" are not always comparable from the Census. Acreage beginning with 1964 refer to pastureland and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pastured, on farms with sales of agricultural products of \$2,500 and over. 2/ Beginning with 1964, agricultural operations under individual management with annual sales of \$1,000 or more. NA Not Available.

APPLE AND PEACH TREE NUMBERS

YEAR	APPLES				PEACHES			
	No. Farms Reporting	Non-bearing Trees	Bearing Trees	Total	No. Farms Reporting	Non-bearing Trees	Bearing Trees	Total
1935	1,552	6,471	84,175	90,646	824	5,981	20,531	26,512
1940	1,301	2,501	55,314	57,815	754	6,008	13,991	19,999
1945	1,489	NA	NA	47,245	640	NA	NA	10,713
1950	615	2,948	22,479	25,427	318	1,500	3,581	5,081
1954*	99	2,171	10,335	12,506	66	2,493	4,075	6,568
1959*	51	925	2,594	3,519	29	216	449	665
1964*	45	1,240	4,033	5,273	23	1,107	2,100	3,207
1969* <u>1/</u>	3	4,225	5,912	10,137	1	850	2,160	3,010
1974* <u>1/</u>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1978 <u>2/</u>	14	NA	NA	NA	9	NA	NA	NA
1982	11	312	(D)	(D)	8	192	(D)	(D)
1987	10	132	595	727	7	(D)	(D)	316
1992	6	585	65	650	4	(D)	(D)	356
1997	10	(D)	(D)	7,587	NA	NA	NA	NA

* Does not include data for farms with less than 20 trees and grapevines. 1/ Data for farms with total sales of agricultural products of \$2,500 and over. 2/ Data for all farms. NA Not available. (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.

POULTRY SALES

YEAR	Broilers		Turkeys		Hens & Pullets of Laying Age	
	Number of Farms	Number Sold	Number of Farms	Number Sold	Number of Farms	Number Sold
1945 <u>1/</u>	1,777	219,944	131	3,164	NA	NA
1950 <u>2/</u>	556	116,121	119	11,809	NA	NA
1954 <u>3/</u>	20	533,171	76	19,883	NA	NA
1959 <u>3/</u>	18	784,117	27	2,789	NA	NA
1964 <u>3/</u> <u>4/</u>	9	1,379,900	10	648	NA	NA
1969 <u>4/</u>	5	333,653	----	----	14	10,703
1974 <u>5/</u> <u>6/</u>	4	183,846	NA	NA	15	9,522
1978 <u>5/</u>	2	(D)	----	----	6	(D)
1982	1	(D)	1	(D)	6	118
1987	2	(D)	2	(D)	5	(D)
1992	1	(D)	4	(D)	4	342
1997	2	(D)	4	288,020	2	(D)

1/ 1945 Chickens raised. Turkeys raised. 2/ 1950 Chickens sold. Turkeys raised. 3/ 1964, 1959 and 1954 Turkeys and turkey fryers raised. 4/ 1969 and 1964 Broilers and other meat-type chickens less than 3 months old. 1969 and 1964 Turkeys with farm sales of \$2,500 and over. 5/ 1974 and 1978 Broilers and other meat type chickens sold. 6/ 1974 Turkeys and Hens & Pullets with farm sales of \$2,500 and over. (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms. ---- Represents zero. NA Not available.

CROP ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

YEAR	CORN			WHEAT		
	Acreage	Yield	Production	Acreage	Yield	Production
		Bushels	Bushels		Bushels	Bushels
1935 <u>1/</u>	15,180	26.5	402,477	17,750	12.3	218,993
1940	13,547	29.9	405,171	13,126	13.0	171,229
1945	11,961	25.4	304,183	10,054	16.1	161,632
1950	6,621	41.3	273,196	6,408	17.4	111,681
1954	5,720	39.6	226,349	3,567	20.9	74,567
1959 <u>2/</u>	3,867	53.9	208,591	1,848	20.5	37,850
1964	1,584	38.9	61,607	1,026	26.6	27,325
1969	1,489	78.5	116,856	583	37.4	21,795
1974	2,791	77.1	215,193	718	37.2	26,710
1978	2,278	84.5	192,573	215	39.7	8,544
1982	1,910	90.8	173,434	167	41.5	6,935
1987	1,564	68.4	106,944	124	50.6	6,270
1992	1,733	79.6	138,007	138	42.7	5,897
1997	1,011	88.3	89,277	80	43.8	3,506

1/ All corn (grain equivalent, including silage and forage) 1935-54. 2/ For grain only, 1959-92.

CROP ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION

YEAR	Vegetables for sale <u>1/</u>	Oats Threshed or Combined <u>2/</u>		Barley Threshed or Combined <u>2/</u>		Rye Threshed or Combined <u>2/</u>		Potatoes <u>3/</u>		Sweet Potatoes	
	Acreage	Acreage	Bushels	Acreage	Bushels	Acreage	Bushels	Acreage	Bushels	Acreage	Bushels
1935	192	1,302	21,234	2,257	44,270	2,183	23,842	531	36,988	58	3,168
1940	96	1,444	25,068	2,066	55,675	1,529	19,615	388	29,887	21	1,372
1945	192	2,070	45,408	2,207	63,813	720	9,531	346	29,207	24	1,244
1950	37	1,173	32,436	2,857	85,365	109	1,856	113	18,273	NA	734
1954	24	2,169	75,830	2,197	80,698	186	3,254	76	16,872	NA	776
1959	37	1,306	50,370	2,015	80,405	81	1,411	53	5,127	NA	263
1964	9	362	12,506	995	45,214	202	3,977	9	1,874	NA	159
1969	31	262	9,875	651	33,792	108	3,592	NA	NA	NA	NA
1974	10	67	1,670	416	22,021	48	1,300	17	1,073	NA	NA
1978	27	281	10,720	234	9,967	183	4,755	4	259	(D)	(D)
1982	6	91	3,741	59	2,874	90	1,630	14	2,407	NA	NA
1987	36	49	2,365	40	2,100	95	2,278	NA	NA	NA	NA
1992	51	309	15,579	182	9,490	33	900	NA	NA	NA	NA
1997	36	(D)	1,841	114	4,160	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

1/ Excludes potatoes and sweet potatoes. 2/ Beginning with 1964 includes farms with total sales of agricultural products of \$2,500 and over. 3/ Potatoes are in hundred weight starting in 1959. NA Not available. (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.

CROP ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION

YEAR	All Hay	Alfalfa for Hay <u>1/</u>		Other Tame Hay <u>2/</u>		Small Grains for Hay <u>2/</u> <u>3/</u>	
	Acreage	Acreage	Tons	Acreage	Tons	Acreage	Tons
1935	17,209	1,595	2,521	14,445	9,902	90	81
1940	17,270	1,292	2,656	14,211	12,477	199	153
1945	20,231	1,534	3,202	17,074	13,391	36	28
1950	19,664	3,088	7,431	13,841	14,982	170	183
1954	23,407	4,875	10,523	13,317	12,498	759	845
1959	19,654	7,651	19,038	8,128	9,303	715	841
1964	17,227	4,183	6,185	3,729	3,347	730	793
1969	16,606	2,277	5,780	7,953	12,590	314	450
1974	15,988	2,311	6,832	8,313	15,354	185	374
1978	19,403	3,355	7,635	12,384	18,719	1,069	1,525
1982	20,028	3,570	8,225	13,875	19,287	813	1,462
1987	23,098	4,807	10,939	14,892	23,910	1,064	1,798
1992	22,442	4,407	10,576	14,098	24,160	803	1,882
1997	26,200	2,408	6,471	20,064	35,708	791	1,569

1/ Beginning with 1964 includes farms with total sales of agricultural products of \$2,500 and over. 2/ Beginning with 1964 includes farms with total sales of agricultural products of \$2,500 and over. Beginning with 1978 data are for all farms. Includes clover-timothy, lespedeza and orchard grass mixtures cut for hay. 3/ Beginning with 1978 data are for all farms.